



REMARKS

Claims 32-82 are pending in the application with new claims 76-82 added herein. Applicants request consideration of the new claims.

New claims 76-82 are supported by the originally-filed application, and therefore do not comprise "new matter." For instance:

claims 76, 77, and 81 are supported at, for example, pg. 1, Ins. 16-20, pg. 2, ln. 34 to pg. 3, ln. 5, pg. 7, Ins. 3-11, pg. 11, ln. 21, and pg. 13, Ins. 19-23;

claim 78 is supported at, for example, pg. 13, Ins. 19-23;

claim 79 is supported at, for example, pg. 4, Ins. 1-10 and Figs. 1-4;

claim 80 is supported at, for example, pg. 13, ln. 27; and

claim 82 is supported at, for example, pg. 4, Ins. 1-10 and Figs. 1-4.

Articles previously cited by the Applicants such as Wright (from Metallurgical and Materials Transactions, Vol. 25A, May 1994) and Hughes (from Tantalum, published by the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society, 1996) describe various crystallographic orientations (i.e, textures) that can be comprised by tantalum materials. Specifically, the references indicate and those of ordinary skill recognize that tantalum materials can comprise {111}, {110}, and {100} crystallographic orientations. Any of such crystallographic orientations can be present in a tantalum-comprising material and, typically, a mixture of the various orientations are present. The original specification clearly describes that materials may have "uniform textures", without limitation to only one particular uniform texture, and gives one example of a {100} crystallographic orientation as the uniform texture.


The claim 76 and 81 {x,y,z} generic formula for crystallographic orientation, wherein x, y and z are integers and two or more of x, y and z can be the same as one another, is supported by the exemplary {100} orientation. The other {111} and {110} orientations known to those of ordinary skill also support the generic formula. Accordingly, claims 76-82 do not comprise "new matter."

Claim 76 recites a structure wherein the texture across a surface substantially comprises only one of the various available crystallographic orientations. Applicants assert that such aspect of the invention is not shown or suggested in the art. Similarly, Applicants assert that the claim 82 sputtering target blank predominately comprising tantalum and having a substantially uniform crystallographic orientation throughout its thickness is not known in the art.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of all pending claims:

Respectfully submitted,

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